(c) and (d) Though the Kerala State 'Government has not supported the import of Coconut oil, no assurance appeals to have been given by the Government in, the past not to import Q>pra -or Coconut oil.

Trading in REP Licences

957. SIHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State:

(a) wliether Government are aware that the trading in Replenishment (REP) licences at high premium has become a flourishing business recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto? ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (c) In terms of para 199 of the Import and Export Policy, 1990-93 (Vol. I), Import Replenishment Licences (REP Licences) are freely transferable. The amount of premium on transfer of such licences is guided by the market forces. Government do not keep toy statistics on the premium charged on •uch transfers.

Introduction of transparent accounting system for banks

958. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GLPTAj Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

introduce a transparent accounting system for the public sector banks; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIG-VIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Merger of New Bank of India wilh another Nationalised Bank

959. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for merging New Bank of India with another nationalised bank;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that almost all the major organisations of bank officers and employees have opposed the proposed merger; and

(d) if so, on what grounds and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIG-VIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is not contemplating to merge New. B^nk of India with another nationalised bank.

(c) and (d) All India New Bank of India Officers Association All India New Bank of India Employees Federation and others have represented to the Government that the merger of New Bank of India with another public sector bank will shake public confidence in public sector banks. They have further suggested that New Bank of India should be retained as an independent entity and financ'a! asiis-tance should be provided to ensure its viability.

Expiry of the wage agreement in the spin-ning nnit at Chandrapur iinrfor NTC

960 SHRI CHATURANAN MTSHRA Will the Minister of TEXTILES V leased to state;